IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A compound consisting of an amino acid sequence which consists of at least three consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence Val-Val-Ile-Ala-Thr-Val-Ile-Val-Ile-Thr-Leu-Val-Met-Leu-Lys-Lys-Lys (SEQ ID NO:1) including Leu at position 11, wherein, between the Leu and one or both amino acids located immediately before or after it, the peptide bond, -CO-NH-, is replaced with a hydroxyethylene group, -CHOH-CH_2-, while any other inter amino-acid bond is a peptide bond, wherein the N terminus has an alkyloxycarbonyl group based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, wherein the C terminus is converted to an alkyl ester or alkyl amide based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, and wherein the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the Thr at position 10 may be replaced with a C1-4 hydrophobic group or a Z group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the Leu at position 14 of the amino acid sequence is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile or with Pro, the Leu at position 11 is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile, or the Thr at position 10 is replaced with Ser, or the Ile at position 9 is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Leu, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Original) A compound consisting of an amino acid sequence which consists of 3, 4, 5 or 6 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence Ile-Thr-Leu-Val-Met-Leu (SEQ ID NO:2) including the Leu at position 3, wherein, between the Leu and one or both amino acids located immediately before or after it, the peptide bond, -CO-NH-, is replaced with a hydroxyethylene group, -CHOH-CH_2-, while any other inter amino-acid bond is a peptide bond, wherein the N terminus has an alkyloxycarbonyl group based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, wherein the C terminus is converted

to an alkyl ester or alkyl amide based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, and wherein the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the Thr may be replaced with a C1-4 hydrophobic group or a Z group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (Original) A compound consisting of the amino acid sequence Leu-Val-Met-Leu (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein, between the Leu at position 1 and the Val at position 2, the peptide bond, -CO-NH-, is replaced with a hydroxyethylene group, -CHOH-CH_2-, while any other inter amino-acid bond is a peptide bond, wherein the N terminus has an alkyloxycarbonyl group based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, wherein the C terminus is converted to an alkyl ester or alkyl amide based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A compound consisting of the amino acid sequence Thr-Leu-Val-Met (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein, between the Thr at position 1 and Leu at position 2, the peptide bond, -CO-NH-, is replaced with a hydroxyethylene group, -CHOH-CH_2-, while any other inter amino-acid bond is a peptide bond, wherein the N terminus has an alkyloxycarbonyl group based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, wherein the C terminus is converted to an alkyl ester or alkyl amide based on C1-10 alkyl that may carry phenyl or naphthyl as a substituent group, and wherein the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the Thr may be replaced with a C1-4 hydrophobic group or a Z group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound of claim 3, wherein the Leu located immediately before the Val is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile, or the Leu at the [[N]] C terminus is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile or with Pro, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The compound of claim 4, wherein the Leu located immediately before the Val is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile, or the Leu at the [[N]] C terminus is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile or with Pro, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 5, wherein the Leu located immediately before the Val is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Ile, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 3, wherein the Thr is replaced with Ser, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 3, wherein the Ile is replaced with a hydrophobic amino acid that may be Leu, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 5, wherein the Thr is replaced with Ser, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The compound of ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the alkyloxycarbonyl group is a Boc group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein a polypeptide consisting of Tyr-Gly-Arg-Lys-Lys-Arg-Arg-Gln-Arg-Arg-Arg (SEQ ID NO:5) is fused instead of the alkyloxycarbonyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14-16. (Cancelled).

17. (New) A composition, comprising the compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (New) A composition, comprising the compound of claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (New) A composition, comprising the compound of claim 3 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (New) A composition, comprising the compound of claim 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.